

K-C 19038

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We claim:

1. A refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment comprising:
 - a) a front panel;
 - 5 b) a back panel;
 - c) an absorbent assembly secured to said front and back panels, and said front and back panels being joined together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings;
 - d) a pair of tear lines formed in said front panel with each extending from said 10 waist opening to one of said respective leg openings;
 - e) a pair of attachment members each having a first region and a second region, each of said first regions being secured to one side of one of each tear line and each of said second regions extending across and being removeably fastened to said other side of said respective tear line; and
 - 15 f) a pair of ear flaps aligned under said pair of attachment members, each ear flap extending outward from a portion of one of said tear lines, and as each of said second regions of said pair of attachment members is unfastened, said pair of ear flaps will remain attached thereto and cause said pair of tear lines to break.
- 20 2. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein each of said ear flaps has a tongue shape.
3. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein each of said ear flaps has a semi-round shape.
- 25 4. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 3 wherein each of said ear flaps has an arcuate side.
5. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 4 wherein said arcuate 30 side is coaxially aligned with one of said pair of tear lines.
6. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein said ear flap has a semi-round portion that is at least partially severed from said front panel.
- 35 7. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein there are two ear flaps associated with each attachment member.

8. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 7 wherein said two ear flaps are spaced apart from one another by at least about 0.5 inches.
- 5 9. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 1 wherein each of said pair of ear flaps extend a distance of at least about 5% along the length of one of said tear lines.
10. A refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment comprising:
 - 10 a) a front panel;
 - b) a back panel;
 - c) an absorbent assembly secured to said front and back panels, and said front and back panels being joined together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings;
 - 15 d) a pair of non-linear tear lines formed in said front panel, each of said pair of tear lines extending from said waist opening to one of said respective leg openings;
 - e) a pair of attachment members each having a first region and a second region, each of said first regions being secured to one side of each tear line and each of said second regions extending across and being removable fastened to said other side of
 - 20 said respective tear line; and
 - f) a pair of ear flaps formed in said front panel and aligned under said pair of attachment members, each ear flap being bonded to one of said attachment members and each ear flap extending outward from one of said tear lines, and as each of said second regions of said pair of attachment members is unfastened, said pair of ear flaps will remain attached thereto and cause said pair of tear lines to break.
- 25 11. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein each of said pair of ear flaps has a portion that is at least partially severed from said front panel.
- 30 12. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein each of said ear flaps has a base side that is larger in dimension than the width of each finger tab that overlaps it.
- 35 13. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein each of said pair of ear flaps is secured to said attachment member by an ultrasonic bond.

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14. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein each of said pair of ear flaps is secured to said attachment member by an adhesive.
15. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 10 wherein each of said 5 pair of ear flaps has an arcuate side that is coaxially aligned with one of said pair of tear lines, and said arcuate side has a length of at least 0.25 inches.
16. A refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment comprising:
 - a) a front panel;
 - 10 b) a back panel;
 - c) an absorbent assembly secured to said front and back panels, and said front and back panels being joined together by a pair of seams to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings;
 - d) a pair of arcuate tear lines formed in said front panel, each of said pair of tear 15 lines extending from said waist opening to one of said respective leg openings;
 - e) a pair of attachment members each having a first region and a second region, each of said first regions being permanently secured to said front panel and each of said second regions extending across one of said pair of tear lines and being removable fastened to said front panel; and
 - 20 f) a pair of ear flaps secured to said front panel and aligned under said pair of attachment members, each ear flap extending outward from one of said tear lines, and as each of said second regions of said pair of attachment members is unfastened, said pair of ear flaps will remain attached thereto and cause said pair of tear lines to break.
- 25 17. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 16 wherein each of said ear flaps has a semi-round portion.
18. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 16 wherein each of said ear flaps has a portion that is at least partially severed from said front panel.
- 30 19. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 16 wherein each of said ear flaps has a base side that is smaller in dimension than the width of each finger tab that overlaps it.

20. The refastenable pant-like disposable undergarment of claim 16 wherein each of said ear flaps has a base side that is equal in dimension to the width of each finger tab that overlaps it.